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SOUTHERN NEWS.

In the Confederate House of Representatives, on Monday last, Mr. Clopton offered a series of joint resolutions relating to the conduct of the existing war and the late proclamation of the President of the United States. The resolutions contemplate the delivery of captured Federal officers to the State governments for trial.

Mr. Lyons, of Virginia, suggested that the government had no power to turn these captured officers over to the States. Nor was there any necessity for the resolutions, since the President has said in his message he will do it, unless prevented by Congress. He favored the passage of a law prohibiting such a course, and to repose the power of retaliation entirely in the hands of the government. He would prefer that any officer captured in any State after the promulgation of that proclamation, should be instantly hung; not subject him to the uncertainties of a trial by jury. The debate was postponed.

In the Virginia Legislature, last week, Mr. Douglas, in a debate, used very severe terms (they are not stated) to both James Barbour and John B. Floyd, and these gentlemen feeling themselves insulted, wrote letters to Mr. Douglas demanding explanation. Mr. Douglas apologized to both of them, explaining that he had not intended to assail them personally.

The Richmond Enquirer, of January 20th, says: "A new financial scheme has been presented by Mr. G. A. Chandler, which proposes an amendment of the Constitution, legalizing the issue of legal tender notes, to be legal tenders during the war and five years thereafter. He also proposes the purchase of the whole cotton crop of the Confederate States. The present crop to be purchased at from 12 to 15 cents per pound.

Judge Holt died in Augusta, Georgia, on the 14th.

Flour is selling in Charleston at \$46 per bbl., and in Mobile at \$60.

George W. Randolph is the people's candidate for the next Governor of Virginia.

The total amount of cotton purchased by the government in the State of Mississippi reaches about 100,000 bales, and much more is in negotiation.

A letter from Fredericksburg to the Richmond Whig, dated the 18th inst., anticipates another advance of General Burnside's army, states that the citizens of Fredericksburg are again leaving the city, and that the Confederate troops are on the qui vive and alert in all directions—and that the old town may yet be famous as the Gibraltar of the continent.

In the Confederate Congress, Mr. Simms, of Kentucky, has offered a resolution inquiring into the late impressment of property in Petersburg and Lynchburg, and also resolutions forbidding the unlawful seizure or conversion of private property, though it should be ordered by the military authority.

CONGRESS.—In the U. S. Senate yesterday, Hon. D. Turpie, Senator-elect from Indiana, appeared and took his seat. The Military Committee were instructed to inquire into the expediency of having published monthly a list of officers absent from the army, with the date of absence and name of the officers by whom the leave of absence was granted. The Committee on Indian Affairs reported a substitute for the House bill granting relief to the citizens of Minnesota who suffered by the Indian outbreak. The bill to reimburse the State of Minnesota for outlays incurred in suppressing the Indian outrages, was passed. The bill to provide for the better comfort of sick soldiers was discussed but not acted upon. The House passed a bill to extend the time of the Assistant Secretaries of War, their appointment for one year being about to expire, and also to authorize the appointment of an assistant Deputy Register in the Treasury Department.—The Finance bill was resumed in Committee of the Whole. Several amendments were adopted. An amendment taxing bank circulation was rejected after a protracted debate. Mr. Stevens then submitted an amendment taxing both bank circulation and deposits which was adopted, yeas 59, nays 46. Without perfecting the bill the Committee laid it aside and went into general debate.

The Washington Star says: "A large number of steamers, barges, &c., employed by the Quartermaster's Department are ashore, or hard and fast in the sand between Alexandria and Aquia Creek, and in Aquia Creek harbor. Indeed, a majority of the craft of all descriptions employed in supplying the army of the Potomac, that are now in the river, are more or less injured. The damage done to nearly all of them is so slight, that in three or four days all will be right again."

A few days since, Mr. Deming, the principal agent or correspondent of the Associated Press, with the army of the Potomac, passed through Washington for New York in military custody. The cause of his arrest is said to have been some publication made by him, going to show the disorganization and demoralization of the army. We hear, further, that Mr. Theodore Barnard, Mr. Deming's principal assistant at headquarters there, was also arrested, and sent away from the camp.

Two or three days since, some of the detectives employed by the special provost marshal of the War Department, Baker, are said to have been arrested at Aquia Creek by military order, and placed in confinement upon the prison ship anchored in the harbor there. Their offence is alleged to have been improper interference with the operations of the Quartermaster's and Commissary's Department there, accompanied with improper language to the military officers.

The President has appointed Cuthbert Bullitt, esq., of New Orleans, collector of that port.

WAR NEWS.

Dispatches from late Southern papers report that the Confederate pickets eighteen miles below Kinston, North Carolina, were driven in on the 16th, and the Federal troops were supposed to be advancing in strong force. A battle, it was expected, would take place at Kinston. On the 14th the Federal gunboats attacked Fort Caswell, but with out decisive results. This fort is a first-class work of hexagonal form, having two tiers of guns under bomb-proof casemates and one tier en barbette.

News has been received at the U. S. Navy Department from Richmond, alleging that the U. S. steam tugboat Columbia recently beached near the mouth of Cape Fear river, and that her officers and crew were compelled to surrender to the Confederates surrounding them. She was attached to the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

General Asboth has been assigned to the command of Columbus, Ky. It is reported that Brig. General Davies has been ordered under arrest for his misconduct in ordering the guns at New Madrid and Island No. 10 to be spiked, when there was in reality no danger of an attack.

An order has just been issued from the Comptroller's office, in Nashville, Tenn., stating "that while the levy made by Gov. Andrew Johnson on certain parties, for the relief of the destitute, has been promptly paid by some, others have withheld from discharging a duty now imperatively demanded by the suffering of the city." These delinquents are notified that, unless they now respond to the demand within four days, they will be officially visited, and compelled to pay their instalment.

The U. S. Navy Department have information from Fortress Monroe, by telegraph, announcing the safe arrival of the iron-clad (Monitor model) steamer Weehawken at that point, from New York. The Nahant is also safe.

A New York letter says:—"The pastoral letter from Southern bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church, recently in general convention at Augusta, Georgia, has just found its way here. It is a remarkable document.—There is internal evidence going to show that it is from the pen of Bishop Elliott of Georgia, who is supposed to have presided over the council. There is but little allusion in it to the war. The language repeatedly used in regard to the Church of the United States is mild, conciliatory and calm, and contains not a word of complaint against any diocese or bishop or clergyman. In reference to the alterations of the prayer book, resulting from the secession movement, the address says only three words have been changed, that is to say, the substitution of "Confederate" for "United States" in the prayers for the President and Congress, and on the title page. The pastoral is very emphatic in enjoining the Church to look after the spiritual interests of the slaves.